



# Showtime for Hats

A unique exhibition highlighting iconic headwear made for theatre, film, TV and opera, by milliners in The British Hat Guild.

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'Showtime for Hats' is a free exhibition less than 5 minutes walk from Luton train station.

It is the first UK exhibition of its kind, focusing solely on hats for theatre, film, TV and opera. A celebration of the milliners and hatters in The British Hat Guild who create specialist headwear for this niche. A fantastic opportunity to see handcrafted original pieces made by the UK's finest hat makers, many of them have been in the business for decades!

Headwear being exhibited includes Timothy Dalton's top hat from 'Licence To Kill' ([Lock & Co Hatters](#)), Michele Pfeiffer's stunning transparent lace hat from the film 'Cherie' ([Sean Barrett](#)), Paul Kaye's felt trilby worn in 'Year of The Rabbit' ([Ellie Vallerini](#)), Ian McKellen's extravagant panto hat from 'Mother Goose' ([Claire Strickland](#)) and Eddie Redmayne's helmet from 'Cabaret' ([Noel Stewart](#)).

Come and be inspired! So often the audience's favourite character is wearing a hat.

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**Monday 4th September - Friday 27th October 2023**

Hat Works, 47 Guildford Street, Luton, LU1 2NQ

OPENING HOURS

Monday - Friday: 10am - 5pm - free entry

Sundays: closed

4 Saturday openings with free demos in using millinery materials  
Dates TBC | details will be posted on the British Hat Guild website

[@britishhatguild](#)

[www.thebritishhatguild.org.uk/showtime-for-hats-exhibition](http://www.thebritishhatguild.org.uk/showtime-for-hats-exhibition)

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Please contact Claire Strickland for further information and imagery

[studio@clairestrickland.com](mailto:studio@clairestrickland.com) +44 (0) 771 443 0537

Image credits: Photographer: Marc Brenner | Costume Designer: Tom Scutt | Milliner: Noel Stewart



Photographer: Manuel Harlan

**Ian McKellen in 'Mother Goose' panto**

Costume designer: [Liz Ascroft](#)



Milliner: [Claire Strickland](#)

Photographer: Nicola Arber



Photographer: James Glossop

**Headdress from the opera 'The Magic Flute' by Scottish Opera**

Costume Designer: [Simon Higlett](#)



Milliner: [Sally-Ann Provan](#)

Photographer: Alistair Clark



Photographer: Josephine Willis

**Bonnet worn by Emma Mackey in the film 'Emily'**

Costume Designer: [Michael O'Connor](#)



Milliner: [Josephine Willis](#)



Photographer: Ben Meadows

**Paul Kaye in 'Year of the Rabbit' TV show**

Costume Designer: [Rosa Dias](#)



Milliner: [Ellie Vallerini](#)



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The British Hat Guild is the national association of professional milliners, hatters, headwear designers and experts in our field, established in Spring 2019 as a way of exchanging ideas and promoting our unique heritage. We aim to provide guidance and support to future professionals, and to share our news with people who are as fascinated as we are by hats and hat-making.

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**The British Hat Guild seeks to encourage and promote the following ideas:**

**Craftsmanship**

To recognise the excellence and quality of British millinery

**Artistry**

To distinguish the extraordinary sophistication of its members' work

**Heritage**

To acknowledge the authenticity of our millinery tradition

**Creativity**

To celebrate the individuality and inventiveness of its members

**Education**

To encourage and support the learning and skills of millinery

**Inspiration**

To share our knowledge and be leaders in our field

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